

DEVICE FOR DEFINING PARTICIPANTS OF A CONTROL SYSTEM FOR A
PRINTING MACHINE

5

Background of the Invention:

Field of the Invention:

The invention relates to a device for defining participants of a control system for a printing machine.

10 In complex, computer-aided control systems, a central computer circuit board may be connected to a plurality of further circuit boards, for example via bus systems. The circuit boards then carry out identical or different functions of the 15 control system. The circuit boards which carry out the functions of the control system will be referred to as "participants" in the following text. In order to define a participant in a control system, the participant being specified to perform specific tasks, it is known to construct 20 the participant in a neutral manner and only to determine the actual purpose or intention of the participant through the use of a measure on site. Measures of this type can be carried out on the participant on site, for example through the use of so-called jumpers or through the use of DIL (Dual In-Line) 25 switches.

Published European Patent Application No. EP 0 834 963 A2 discloses a device for coding flat subassemblies. This coding device is preferably configured as a frame, which can either be placed onto the plug-in connection or onto the flat subassembly. The coding device mechanically prevents that a contact is being made between plug-in connections and flat subassemblies which do not belong together.

As a further possibility, the participant can also be equipped
10 with a non-volatile memory, in which the address of the
0 participant and therefore its actual intention is stored. The
0 non-volatile memory is then preprogrammed, either at the
0 factory before the commissioning of the plant or, in the event
0 of a replacement, by a service engineer.

Summary of the Invention:

It is accordingly an object of the invention to provide a device for defining participants of a control system which overcomes the above-mentioned disadvantages of the heretofore-known devices of this general type and which implements a unique definition of the various participants on a control system without adjustment work having to be carried out on the respective circuit board of the participant.

With the foregoing and other objects in view there is provided, in accordance with the invention, a device for defining control system participants, including:

5 a control system configured to control a printing machine, the control system including a central computer and a plurality of participants, the participants interacting with the central computer in order to carry out processes;

10 a bus system including lines, the participants being connected to one another via the lines of the bus system;

15 the lines of the bus system and the participants having respective plugs connecting the lines to the participants; and

20 at least given ones the plugs of the lines of the bus system having reserved plug contacts, the reserved plug contacts being provided with at least one galvanic link.

According to another feature of the invention, the at least one galvanic link is connected to a given voltage potential.

According to yet another feature of the invention, the reserved plug contacts are free connections of a respective 25 one of the plugs, the at least one galvanic link is fitted to the free connections.

With the objects of the invention in view there is also provided, in combination with a printing machine including a control system with a central computer, a device for defining 5 participants of a control system, including:

a plurality of participants interacting with the central computer in order to carry out processes;

10 a bus system including lines, the participants being connected to one another via the lines of the bus system;

the lines of the bus system and the participants having respective plugs connecting the lines to the participants; and

15 at least given ones the plugs of the lines of the bus system having reserved plug contacts, the reserved plug contacts being provided with at least one galvanic link.

20 It is assumed that the participants for controlling a printing machine are connected by a set of lines which, for example, represents a field bus system. Using the set of lines, the various participants for controlling the printing machine are connected, which is usually implemented through the use of a 25 plug-in connection. In this case, the location (participant or set of lines) at which the plug part or socket part is fitted

is not important. Furthermore, it is assumed that not all the contacts in the plug or socket part are used for controlling the machine or that these are not allocated. As a result, there is the possibility of using the unallocated contacts in 5 the plug-in connection for the definition or identification of a participant.

According to the invention, in the simplest case a galvanic link is provided between two unallocated plug contacts in the 10 plug part belonging to the set of lines. This galvanic link is detected and interpreted by the participant for controlling the printing machine. The interpretation is carried out in such a way that only one address combination which makes it possible for the participant to respond is possible.

15 On the circuit board of the participant, a device interrogates the galvanic link in the plug part of the set of lines as though the corresponding adjustment has been performed through the use of jumpers or DIL switches. In this case, the 20 participant is kept completely neutral and, in the event of service, can also be replaced by a non-specialist. In particular in cases in which a number of participants satisfy tasks with different priorities on a printing machine, for example the main drive of the machine and an auxiliary drive 25 for the varnishing unit, in the event of failure of the participant for the main drive, a replacement with the

participant for the auxiliary drive can be carried out by the printer and the machine continues to be usable in emergency operations.

5 Of course, it is conceivable that combinations of galvanic links are used or that individual plug contacts are connected to a defined potential (VCC or ground) of the voltage supply.

Should all the plug contacts of the plug-in connection be

allocated for the data transfer, it is conceivable for

10 contacts of other plug-in connections, for example the voltage supply, to be used for address identification. It is noted that it is completely unimportant what type of plug connector is used.

15 Other features which are considered as characteristic for the invention are set forth in the appended claims.

Although the invention is illustrated and described herein as embodied in a device for defining participants of a control system for a printing machine, it is nevertheless not intended to be limited to the details shown, since various modifications and structural changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention and within the scope and range of equivalents of the claims.

The construction and method of operation of the invention, however, together with additional objects and advantages thereof will be best understood from the following description of specific embodiments when read in connection with the 5 accompanying drawing.

Brief Description of the Drawing:

The single figure is a block diagram for illustrating participants of a control system and a set of lines according 10 to the invention.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments:

Referring now to the single figure in detail, there is shown a central computer 10 and a number of participants 1, 12, 14 for 15 a printing machine. The figure shows a participant 1 which, in the form of a populated circuit board, a so-called flat

subassembly or flat module, includes a plurality of components 5, 6 and 7 combined into groups. The components 5, 6, 7 in each case perform or satisfy different tasks for the

20 participant; of course, it is also possible for the participant to have a different composition of components. In addition, the participant 1 carries a row of plugs 2, 3, 4,

which are illustrated here as socket parts. In this case, again the number of plug contacts and the number of

25 connections from a plug contact to a component as such is completely unimportant. It is likewise unimportant whether

socket parts or plug parts or a mixed form are fitted to the participant. The plugs 2', 3' and 4' are associated with a set of lines 8, wherein the plugs 2', 3' and 4', in an appropriate way, fit together with the plugs 2, 3, 4 and connect the 5 participant 1 via the set of lines 8 to a computer part, which may be a central computer 10. The set of lines 8 constitutes, for example, a field bus system, wherein it is also possible that lines for the voltage supply and signal lines for analog signals are provided in the set of lines 8. Likewise, plugs 10 2', 3', 4' could also be specified in accordance with their task. A galvanic link or electrical link 9 connects two plug contacts in the plug 4'. This galvanic link 9 is connected by the connection of the two plugs 4, 4' to components 7. These components 7 are specified to determine the defined address of 15 the participant 1 and therefore to follow only instructions which are carried out under the address intended for it. As already mentioned, the participant 1 is kept neutral and is only defined or set by the address interrogation, which is defined here in the example by the plug 4'.